

## January President's Message (Jim McIntosh)



This being a time of politics in America, unless you are in solitary confinement or somehow oblivious to the whole thing, you can't avoid hearing daily comments you don't agree with. This certainly is not limited to politics. You will hear such comments about sports, movies, books, and even religion.

Because it is not appropriate to live in a cave or go about with cotton stuffed in our ears, we must determine a way to deal with the misguided assertions we hear. There are those who regularly laud Ohio State or Michigan football. These comments do not upset me. I can overlook these remarks as merely unfortunate states of birth or family loyalties.

On the other hand, if they were to imply that either of these teams were better than Wisconsin, my benevolence might begin to lessen slightly. If they go so far as to imply that there is something wrong with me if I don't accept their point of view, that's where I draw them line.

People are all entitled to our opinions. I believe they have a right to express those opinions in a positive way. They even have the right to try to win me over to their way of thinking, if done civilly and with consideration.

There is a line where openness need no longer be afforded: when I feel I am not being respected, or when I am being denigrated for having a different point of view or when I feel the other person cares less about me and more about getting their message out. When this prevails, the line has been crossed.

If one wants to hear different opinions, a UU fellowship is the place to be. Opinions may be expressed there by regulars or even casual visitors that may occasionally ruffle our feathers. When this happens we should be glad, it is our opportunity practice implementation of all the UU Principles at once.